Fodder shortage in Orissa

1714. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of acute shortage of fodder due to serious drought situation in Orissa;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to strengthen fodder bank and seed production in the State;

(c) whether any amount has been released to that State in this regard during 2002-2003; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) There is no report from the State on acute shortage of fodder due to drought in Orissa. However, there is a deficit in the availablity of fodder in many drought hit States.

The Government of India provides funds for Establishment of Fodder Bank under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme—"Assistance to States for Feed and Fodder Development" on the basis of the proposals received from the State Governments. However, no proposal from Orissa to release funds under the scheme has been received during 2002-2003.

NDDB's joint ventures with State Dairy Federations

1715. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether if is a fact that the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has decided to set up joint ventures with State Dairy Federations to market milk; and

(b) if so, the details of such joint ventures proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) A wholly owned Company of NDDB, through its subsidiary Mother Dairy Foods Ltd. has decided to enter into Joint Ventures with State Cooperative Dairy Federations to market their milk and milk products.

(b) Mother Dairy Foods Ltd. has entered into Joint Venture Agreements with Kerala Cooperative Milk Federation Ltd., Trivandrum and Matha Milk Marketing Mutually Aided Cooperative Federation Ltd., Hyderabad so far.

Production and export of fruits and vegetables

1716. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables;

(b) if so, the Indian position in regard to export of these items;

(c) the steps proposed to boost India's export of vegetables and fruits; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables after China. We produced 45.37 million tonnes of fruits and 93.92 million tonnes of vegetables during 2000-01.

(b) India ranks 21st in the world export of fruits and vegetables.

(c) and (d) For encouraging export of horticultural products, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce is providing financial assistance to individuals/exporters for various activities like setting up Infrastructure Facilities, Packaging Development, Human Resource Development, Export Promotion, Market Development and Quality Control. Besides, APEDA with the involvement of the State Governments have initiated several programmes under Agri Export Zones (AEZ) for giving focused attention on area based programme for export promotion of horticultural products including fruits and vegetables.